

Letter to J.A.D. McCurdy, April 11, 1912

Apr. 11th, 1912. J. A. D. McCurdy, Esq., #1780 Broadway, New York, N. Y. Dear Mr. McCurdy:—

We have yours of the 10th inst., together with executed preliminary statement in connection with Interference N o 34,455.

We are very desirous of seeing you at the earliest possible moment, as a very important matter has come up. The writer was talking to Dr. Bell several days ago about the preliminary statement which he was to execute, and which was identical with the one which you have executed, and Dr. Bell stated that he has a very clear recollection that the invention was conceived prior to the date indicated by you. He said that the matter of arranging the lateral balancing rudders at a zero angle of incidence was brought up by him, and discussed by all five of the joint inventors on the occasion of his trip to Hammondsport when he first saw the "White Wing". He stated that he remembers this distinctly, because he was surprised that the lateral balancing rudders on the "White Wing" were not arranged at a zero angle of incidence, and that the whole matter of so arranging the balancing rudders was then and there discussed. He has been unable to fix definitely the date when he visited Hammondsport, but it evidently was sometime about the 14th of May, 1908 . Can you fix the date of his visit any more definitely?

As you will appreciate from the foregoing, it is very desirable, indeed, that this matter be discussed with you. We have a letter from Mr. Curtiss, saying that he will be in Washington about the middle of this month, and this matter will then be discussed with him also.

Dr. Bell informed us that Lieut. Selfridge's notebook, to which you referred, was in the possession of his father; and suggested that, as you were familiar with this book, you write to his father and ask him to forward it to us, for the purposes of this interference.

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Our time for filing preliminary statements in this matter expires on April 22d, and in view of this new development, it appears that new preliminary statements will have to be drafted and forwarded for execution. It looks as though we will have to ask for an extension of time for filing preliminary statements, as we do not see how we will have time before that date to forward new 2 statements to Mr. Selfridge in San Francisco and Mr. Baldwin in Baddeck, and receive the same back in time for filing. Please advise us as definitely as possible just when you will be in Washington.

Very truly yours, K-F.